

PRESENT SCHOOL SYSTEM ALLOWS LOSS AND LEAKAGE AT BOTH ENDS, SAYS SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL

H. M. Wells Presents Some Well Defined Ideas Before the Teachers' Convention.

"The Rule of Three It puzzles me, And Tare and Tret, They make me fret."

This rusty old rhyme harks back to the little red school house on the hill. It has an odd sound to most teachers of the present day, no doubt, yet to others it may recall traditions of the good old times when "The Rule of Three" was the name applied to the subject of proportion, and when Tare and Tret as an application of percentage was emphasized by frequent other applications of a striking nature.

Tare, according to Webster, is "An allowance or abatement....which the seller makes to the buyer on account of the weight of the container;" while Tret is a similar allowance for waste and wear on dry goods, and corresponds to leakage in liquids.

Now from such a classic text as the above, one might naturally look for a dissertation on the modern methods of teaching arithmetic as compared with those of the good old days; but such is not my purpose. It is rather to discuss the problems of Tare and Tret or leakage as applied to school attendance.

Bishop Restarick makes out that the pupils of the public schools get 174 holidays a year and hence are in school only 191 days.

As the Bishop allows only ten weeks instead of eleven for the summer vacation, we must confess to the 174 play days and a few more. An even division of the year would, perhaps, be more nearly correct.

There is no doubt that the Bishop is on the right track when he suggests that the needs of the pupils demand longer school days and more of them.

Long Vacations Disastrous—

Much as we teachers cherish our long vacations, confession must be made that for the pupils, whether boarding or day scholars, extended vacations are disastrous in their results: disastrous to discipline, disastrous to scholarship, disastrous to morals. The traditional mischief maker never takes a holiday. He works when others play. His busy season is when teachers, preachers, settlement workers and others shut up shop and are off for their vacation, leaving behind them many idle hands to do his mischief.

Nor does the average child in Hawaii need long vacations for rest and recuperation. He is not yet far enough removed from the ranks of the toilers to render him liable to nervous prostration through extended mental exertion.

—But Necessary.

From the standpoint of the teacher, however, vacations are none too long. For too many of them a nervous breakdown is always imminent. We must beg to take issue with the Bishop, indeed, when he compares a teacher's work with that of women workers in other lines. Even stenographers are never subjected to nervous strain that can be compared to that of the live teacher. No one can understand this till he has tried it.

If the school terms were materially lengthened, then provision would have to be made for relays in the teaching force as is always done where schools are in constant session; thus allowing a rest of three months or more to each teacher every two or three years.

More Time; More Pay.

No doubt a 25 per cent. addition to the school year would prove popular with pupils and teachers alike, provided the age limit was proportionately lowered for the child, and provided also that the teacher's salary was correspondingly raised, with three months' leave occasionally on full pay.

Under the present system whereby a child is allowed three months' in which to forget what we teach him the other nine months, progress can not be very rapid.

Yet we teachers would be reasonably well satisfied, and could make a much better showing if we actually got the opportunity for instructing the youth of the territory that is ours according to law.

If the school law were carried out in spirit and letter, each child in the territory would attend school five hours a day for nine years of, say, 183 days each.

According to the Course of Study, in these nine years every child should complete the eighth grade. Were the intent of school law, and course of study both fulfilled, then, all pupils of the territory should qualify for the high school at fifteen.

Of course no one expects even to approximate this high standard, but results are so pitifully below it as to challenge our attention, and raise the question "Why?"

School Attendance.

At the school census taken in December, 1910, only 1.3% of the total public school population were in the eighth grade; while our high schools showed an attendance of but 1.2% of the whole. Nor does the situation seem to improve in this regard.

The high-water mark of high school attendance was in 1898, when 233 were in attendance at our one high school in Honolulu. This was 2.1% of the total school population at that time, while in 1910 the totals had risen slightly, but the percentage was, as stated above, reduced to 1.2%.

This is such a meager percentage of the whole school population at its best, however, that we will take the attendance in grades five to eight inclusive as a fairer test of what the schools are doing; trusting that here, at least, our boasts of advancement will find vindication.

Gradual Decline.

But the figures are no less disconcerting, showing not only a very low percentage in 1910, but a gradual decline in the ten years following 1898.

"MOST VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION SO FAR PRESENTED ON QUESTION"

Makawao, Maui, March 14, 1912.

Editor Advertiser:—I enclose herewith a paper read before the last teachers' convention here on Maui by Mr. H. M. Wells, supervising principal of the Makawao district, which I believe is the most valuable contribution to the present school controversy that has been so far presented, and which I trust you will publish in The Advertiser. I would commend it to the earnest attention of everybody interested in the public school system.

Yours very truly,

W. O. AIKEN,
Commissioner of Public Instruction.

from 17.75% at that time, to 9.3 per cent in 1903. Indeed there has been

Ages of Pupils in All Schools in the Territory, December 31, 1910.

Public Schools.	Under 6	6 years.	7 years.	8 years.	9 years.	10 years.	11 years.	12 years.	13 years.	14 years.	15 years.	Over 15	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Totals	107	1825	2549	2,709	2,406	2,443	2,086	1,993	1,665	1,274	529	720	11,112	9,133	20,245

not only a proportional falling off in these grades, but an actual one, as the following figures will show. In 1898 there were 1964 pupils in grades five to eight; in 1900 there were 1892; in 1902 there were 2276; in 1904 there were 2142; in 1906, 1522, a decrease of 442 in eight years. In 1908 there were 1823 or 41 less than in 1898, although the school population as a whole had increased by 76 per cent in these same ten years.

Of course it is true that the increase in the total school population was largely measured by the swelling of the entering classes; which increased from 3441 in receiving and first grades in 1898 to 10237 in 1908, at which time actually more than half of the public school population ranked below second grade.

This abnormal flooding of the entering classes will account, in part, for the decreased percentages in the higher grades, but that there should have been an actual decrease in the number who reached the grammar grades in face of the constant increase in the lower grades which act as feeders to the higher ones, demands some other explanation.

In 1910, to be sure, under high pressure from Mr. Cox, there was an apparent rally; when the percentage in these four upper grades was increased to 12 per cent with 2486 in attendance. With all due regard for the excellent work done by Mr. Cox during the school year 1909-10, teachers generally will agree that this apparent rally represented a forced promotion of classes rather than any marked growth in the efficiency of our school system.

Concealment Gains Nothing.

The intent of this paper was to show the relation of attendance to advancement; that poor attendance is in large measure responsible for poor attainment. This we shall endeavor to show. There is nothing to indicate that this is more of a problem than it was ten or fifteen years ago, however, and we were somewhat chagrined to find an actual decline in the attainments of our schools during this period.

The facts are patent to all who will study Table No. IV of our last school census, and there is nothing to be gained by hiding our heads in the sand and complacently hugging to our bosoms the commendations of strangers. Let us know the worst, and knowing it, lay a foundation not for a more flattering biennial report through forced promotions and grading according to age in accordance with the latest fad, but for real attainments in scholarship through a rational course of study and rational methods of instruction.

That we have no other hope for the future through these large entering classes is shown by the further fact that promotions from first to second grades show the same tendency to decline, as shown by this same Table No. IV.

We country people are not yet smart enough to drop the receiving grade. We will allow, then, two years as a fair average in which to promote from first to second grade.

Out of the entire number of pupils in first grade in 1894—our earliest record—79 per cent had apparently made second in 1896. This percentage of promotions from first to second grade gradually decreased to 35 per cent in 1908. In 1910, through the strenuous efforts of Mr. Cox, there was a slight increase in promotions, amounting to one per cent.

But it is beyond the province of this paper to discuss this apparent decline in our public school system. Our immediate problem is one of leakage, and not of profit and loss.

Rapidly Improving?

It has been stoutly maintained that our school system is rapidly improving. We will leave it to able pens to prove that this statement is true, contenting ourselves with trying to show what relation poor attendance holds to slow advancement.

In figuring out a basis for our computations in leakage, the first item that confronts us is the loss at the intake.

According to law every child in the territory should enter school at six years of age. Now there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of children who never go to school at all; children whose parents are consciously disobeying the school law for gain.

These, however, we are not concerned about in this discussion, since in the nature of the case they can neither affect the totals of those who enter school nor the percentage of those promoted. But there is a leakage at the intake or entering class, that quite materially lowers the standard of our schools.

Notwithstanding the fact that our school population is always on the increase and that the numbers at the intake are a constant flood the number six years old at any one time is materially less than at a purely business standpoint, since an average of 2293 pupils were absent from school every day that year; and \$22.29 per pupil was

paid out of the treasury for the instruction that they failed to get.

Tangible Money Loss.

Absence, then, means a tangible money loss of over \$50,000 a year. Yet this loss is slight in comparison with the less tangible one in scholarship. Not only do those who habitually absent themselves from school lose ground thereby, but since they are naturally the backward ones, they come the whole class when they do come. For the sake of our own reputations as teachers, then, we should make every effort to pare down the absence column. In Hawaii, this is one of the most

difficult problems that the school principal has to deal with; since he has

often to combat ignorance, prejudice, greed and deception on the part of the parents, and the police with their many duties seem hardly able to handle the situation effectually. The school principal should not be expected to give his time to the enforcement of law, yet he is often compelled to do so, or suffer his school to retrograde.

Problems of Teachers.

There confront us, then, as teachers, these four questions: How shall we get all the children of the territory enrolled in school? How shall we enforce their enrollment at the legal age? How shall we compel their regular attendance? How shall we keep them from drifting away through change of residence? At the present time it seems well-nigh impossible to do all these things, and yet our reputations as teachers depend in large measure on their being done.

To my mind there is a fundamental weakness in the school law in that it does not specify that the truant officer shall find the children and bring them to school at the legal age. Both the law and the officers seem concerned only with those children already enrolled and not with those who are eluding them altogether.

Again, the law should more clearly specify what constitutes truancy.

The law, in part, reads as follows: "If any child of school age shall persist in absenting himself or herself from school, any district magistrate shall

Now, how many times may a child absent himself from school before he can be said to have done it 'persistently?' It is evidently left to the discretion of each district magistrate to decide. This can only result in evasion and contempt for the law. In a small way it is comparable to the 'reasonable' clause in the decision handed down by the Supreme Court at Washington on the application of the Sherman law.

Three days' absence in a single school term without previous excuse from the principal of the school might well be considered a case of truancy.

Again, the present arrangement whereby the regular police are required to act as truant officers, is most unsatisfactory. The police have too many other calls upon their time to give the schools proper attention. Moreover, we have it on the highest authority that, "No man can serve two masters." The truant officers should be in the employ of the Department of Public Instruction.

Suggested Plan.

I would suggest the following plan: Let there be a special school officer in each district; a man of good judgment, reliable and energetic. He should be hired by the supervising principal of the district, and should work under his direction. The work of this officer should be specified by law to be somewhat as follows:

To make a complete census and map of his district during the summer vacation. To keep as a matter of record the name of each man, woman and child living in his district, and, in the case of children, the age of each; to record births, deaths and removals. In case of removals, whether of adults or of children, to ascertain their destination and report to the supervising principal, who, in turn, could report to the supervising principals of the districts designated. To visit all incoming and outgoing steamers, and report on the destination of all passengers. To notify all parents and guardians that their children, when of school age, must be sent to school promptly and regularly; and to arrest those who offend in this regard on complaint of the principal.

Corps of Twenty.

Twenty good men could do this work for the whole Territory; and even if it cost \$20,000 a year it would be money well spent. These twenty men could effectually stop all the leakages at the intake by means of the census, and by their watchfulness over the comings and goings of the families in their districts, could check the mysterious seepage all along the line, which, as we have tried to show, is so disastrous to the success of our schools.

Abolish Age Limit.

In conclusion let me propose one more change in our school laws. I would suggest the feasibility of abolishing the age limit altogether except as it relates to the time when a child shall enter school, and substituting therefor a fixed number of days which shall be required as a minimum attendance period.

As it appears to me, the effect of such a law, in conjunction with the taking of a school census as proposed above, would be to stimulate attendance greatly.

Instead of keeping his child at home till the age of ten or twelve and then trying to get him out of school at fourteen, the greedy parent would at-

Hawaii Wants More Truant Officers and Ways of Forcing School Attending.

paid out of the treasury for the instruction that they failed to get.

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REALTY TRANSACTIONS.

Entered of Record March 14, 1912.
Cecil Brown Tr to Cecilia Jims. D
Agnes L Kana, et al to Mary Laka, John Enos and wf to Mrs Mary E Laka, et al. D
John Enos and wf to Mrs Mary E Laka, et al. D
Charles M Cooke, Ltd to Palolo Land & Imprmt Co, Ltd. Par Rel
Palolo Land & Imprmt Co, Ltd to Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd. D
Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd to Saa Hoi Allen & Robinson, Ltd to Charles F Clemons. Par Rel
Charles F Clemons and wf to Emma M Nakuna. D
Maggie F Cabral and hsb to Bishop Trust Co, Ltd. M
Hui Hoonamua Liliuokalani Mah 2, et al to Trs of Liliuokalani Trust. Tr D
Mannell Rocha and wf to Muti Investment Co of H, Ltd, Tr. M
Banow of Hawaii, Ltd to F E E Strach. Rel
Bank of Hawaii, Ltd to O T Boardman. Rel
Antonio S Machado to Wong Tin Look. Rel
Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd to John Hamilton. D
T Hamamura to S Kimura & Co, Ltd. C M
H Waterhouse Tr Co, Ltd, Tr to Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd. D
Annie S Parke, by Atty to Mary E Cross. D
Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd to William F Heilbron. D
Entered of Record March 15, 1912.
Esther Blossom to Lottie M Lowden Rel
Dixie F Owen and hsb to Robert T Van Deusen. D
Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd to King's Daughters Cucle of Honolulu. D
Y Anin Tr and wf to Chong Ho See (w). D
E K Ellworth and wf to Pinecarr Sales Co, Ltd. Consent
Wing Wo Tai & Co. Co-P D
Wing Wo Tai & Co to Chock Tong, et al. P A
Dowsett Co, Ltd to Antone Tavares D
Dowsett Co, Ltd, Trs of Bondholders, to Antone Tavares. Par Rel
Cecil Brown Tr to Cyrus T Green. Rel
Cyrus T Green to Tim. D
Francisco de F Lopez and wf to Jose de F Lopez. D
Joe F Lopez and wf to Jaenitha Rawlins. D
Ernest O Heintz and wf to George Tai. D
Harry Roberts to Richard S Kelly. M
Kaimuki Land Co, Ltd to M A Moore. D
E S Cunha to C R Collins. L
Entered of Record March 16, 1912.
Francisco P Bento Sr and wf to Manuel Lucas. D
First Bank of Hilo, Ltd to Jose P Amara. Rel
Cabrinn & Co to August P Aguiar D
John K White and wf to Mary Dart Mary Dart and hsb to First Bank of Hilo, Ltd. M
Malaka M Pacheco and hsb to First Bank of Hilo, Ltd. C M
Manuel B de Costa to John F Rodrigues. M
Manuel R Lucas and wf to Pedro S Costa. M
Manuel Lucas and wf to Jaenitha Leite. D
T Hayashida to L Chou. C M
William Clark to John T Baker. L
William Clark to John T Baker. B S
The von Hamm-Young Co, Ltd to D Nagatani. Rel
Zolobabala Kani and wf, et al to Union Mill Co. Grant
Rufus Pickett to Maggie F Cabral D
K Miura to von Hamm-Young Co, Ltd. C M
Bernard P Joy and wf to Mary A Richards. D
Entered of Record March 18, 1912.
Ellen Kalaivai and hsb, et al to David K Kapabee. D
Bennie Hanaike and wf to Mrs. Kawena Kauili. D
Kawena Kauili and hsb to Mrs. Annie B Hanaike. D
Est of W C Lunallilo, by Trs to Anastasia McDowell. Rel
J A Burgo and wf to City Mill Co, Ltd. M
Trent Trust Co, Ltd to Andrew Nagy. D
K Sadayasu to von Hamm-Young Co, Ltd. C M
H H Shipman to Hilo Meat Co, Ltd. L
Wm Lan to Olana Taroa. L
Henry S Townsend to William B Castle. P A
D Howard Hitchcock, et al, by Atty to Notice. Notice
Est of Yee Chin, by Admr to Lum Yip Kee. B S
Est of Yee Chin, by Admr to Yee Hing. B S
Amaka Kanailu (k) to Keeka Robert (w). D
H Waterhouse Tr Co, Ltd, Tr to John D Deter. Rel
Geo C Beckley to Beatrice C Beckley. C M
Eddith E Pond and hsb to Virginia Je M Barboza. D
Entered of Record March 19, 1912.
Maria de Coito to Jose Matsugoro Rel
Jose Matsugoro and wf to John F Cazinha. M
Robert P Waipa, et al to City Mill Co, Ltd. M
Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co to A Okino. L
David P Jellings, et al to F Kawamura. L
Palolo Land & Imprmt Co, Ltd to F H Kilbey. D
F H Kilbey and wf to A F Cooke Tr. M
Est of James Campbell, by Trs, et al adv United States of America. Judgment
Est of John O Cluney, by Trs, et al adv United States of America. Judgment
Henry St J K Nahalehuia and wf et al to Elizabeth K Nahalehuia. D

STILL TALKING OF CUTTING JUDGESHIPS

Local Attorneys Discussing Proposal of Democrats—Attorney-General Opposes Reduction.

The prospect of a decrease in the number of circuit judges in the Territory is being a good deal discussed among local attorneys, as it persists in remaining a live proposition in Washington, as a part of the Democratic chieftainship program.

Some lawyers believe the county of Hawaii might get along with one less circuit judge, and that perhaps Honolulu court business could be handled with one less than at present. But the general sentiment is in favor of keeping up the present organization all over the Islands.

"It is probably true," said Attorney-General Lindsay yesterday, "that there is not enough work in some of the circuits to keep the judges employed, but their presence is necessary just the same. Considering the matter of actual work done, it might probably be shown that the judges of the circuits on Maui, Kauai and West Hawaii do not do more work, all three of them, than one judge could do. But we have to take into consideration the fact that it is often necessary to have a circuit judge available. Habeas corpus proceedings, restraining orders, etc., call for the prompt attention of a judge on the spot, and there might be crises in which it would work injustice if the island of Kauai for example, were without a judge of a court of record."

According to the discussion among attorneys, the program of reduction may also lead to the cutting out of one of the federal judges here. In Washington the matter is being discussed in relation to the volume of business done, and it is said that the district of Hawaii is not able to show enough federal business to warrant the employment of two federal judges.

STAGNANT STOMACH

Thin Blood Halts Digestion More Effectually Than a Majority of People Think.

In the human body, when the blood becomes thin and impure, the different organs fail to do their work properly. One of the first to fail is the stomach and right here most sufferers from impure blood make a serious mistake. They imagine because their digestion is poor, that something is wrong with the stomach itself. A reduction in the amount of nourishment taken often makes matters worse.

The truth in such cases is that the stomach is failing to do its work well because it is not receiving a sufficient supply of pure, red blood.

Such a sufferer should take a thorough treatment for the blood with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. These pills actually make new, red blood and give strength and tone to the entire system.

Mrs. Walter E. Kuehl, of No. 1527 Virginia street, Berkeley, Cal., says: "I suffered for nineteen years with indigestion and stomach trouble. At one time I was so ill that I did not care to live. I had an appetite but could not eat on account of the acute pain it gave me. I had dull heavy pains in my stomach and chest, food refused to go down and there seemed to be a load on my stomach. At times there were sharp pains in my head like a jumping toothache. I had one bad attack when I was in bed for three months. Before taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People I was a mere skeleton. Doctors gave me up. I could not keep my medicine on my stomach. I was starving to death and had no hope of getting well. The pills gave me almost immediate relief and I have been in good health since taking them. I weigh 175 pounds. I am willing and pleased to recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People to any sufferer and feel that I cannot praise the pills enough."

The tonic treatment with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills by building up the blood so that it can nourish and strengthen the weakened digestive system has made hundreds of cures in the most severe stomach disorders. This record of cures should merit a trial for the remedy.

We will send free upon request our diet book, "What to Eat and How to Eat." Write today.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all druggists, or sent, postpaid, upon receipt of price, 50 cents per box; six boxes, \$2.50, by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

HILO, March 19.—A very peculiar railroad accident took place at Honolulu, Kona, last week, when a Japanese sugar plantation laborer was found to have been run over by the plantation train, although no one knew that this had happened until after the body was discovered. The deputy sheriff reported that the train had stopped to let off some laborers. When it started again, it was found that there was a body on the track under the train. It was that of one of the laborers who had been riding on it. The body was not badly crushed, but the skull had been fractured. It is believed that the man was jolted from his seat when the train stopped, and that he met his death by falling under the car.